

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1859

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PARM, SI, FI, UR
SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE AND FINNISH PRIME
MINISTER SORSA

REF: HELSINKI 1301

1. SUMMARY. ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL C. WARNKE, IN HELSINKI AS HEAD OF THE ASAT DELEGATION, MET ON JUNE 9 WITH FINNISH PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA. THE MEETING WAS AT SORSA'S REQUEST IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP). SORSA DISCUSSED THE PROJECTED ACTIVITIES OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALS STUDY GROUP ON DISARMAMENT, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN. THE STUDY GROUP WILL MAKE A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES AT THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN VANCOUVER, NOVEMBER 2-5. PRIOR TO THEN, THE STUDY GROUP HOPES TO MEET WITH CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV IN MOSCOW AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 27-30. THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WAS NOT SEEN BY AMBASSADOR WARNKE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM HELSINKI ON JUNE 10 AND SHOULD BE CLEARED BY THE AMBASSADOR BEFORE DISSEMINATION AS A CLEARED MEMCON. END SUMMARY.

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2. BEGIN MECON. PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, THROUGH SDP CHANNELS, ASKED THE EMBASSY TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL C. WARNKE DURING HIS VISIT TO HELSINKI FOR THE ASAT TALKS. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE TAPIOLA GARDENS HOTEL NEAR HELSINKI ON JUNE 9 AT 6 P.M. SORSA WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE SDP CONGRESS WHICH WAS BEING HELD NEAR BY. ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

PAAVO LIPPONEN, SDP PLANNING SECRETARY; JAAKKO KALELA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT; AND EMBASSY DMC FRY.

3. AFTER A BRIEF AND GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS SCENE, SORSA REFERRED TO THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SOVIET INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI (REFTEL. WARNKE THANKED SORSA FOR THE INVITATION TO SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE AND REGRETTED THAT HIS SCHEDULE PREVENTED HIM FROM ATTENDING. SORSA SPOKE HIGHLY OF USUN AMASSADOR JAMES LEONARD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE, AND LIPPONEN REFERRED TO LEONARD'S STATEMENTS THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES SHOULD DO MORE IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT. SORSA SAID THAT THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL HAD NOW ESTABLISHED A STUDY GROUP ON DISARMAMENT OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN.

4. SORSA CONTINUED THAT THE STUDY GROUP IS UNDERTAKING PRELIMINARY STUDIES BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN VANCOUVER FORM NOVEMBER 2 - 5. AT THE CONGRESS THE STUDY GROUP WOULD HOPE TO PRESENT AN INITIAL REPORT ON QUOTE THE PRESENT PROBLEMATICS OF DISARMAMENT UNQUOTE, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION, AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES (NOT IDENTIFIED).
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5. WARNKE SAID THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE A WORTHWHILE EFFORT AND MIGHT SERVE AS A COMPLEMENTARY FOLLOW-ON TO THE SSOD. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE QUOTE IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP A REALISTIC APPROACH UNQUOTE TO DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, NOTING THAT OVERLY AMBITIOUS PLANS IN THIS AREA CAN ACTUALLY FRUSTRATE REALISTIC PROGRESS. UNREALISTIC PROPOSALS TEND, IN EFFECT, TO BE DISREGARDED FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES. HE POINTED TO THE QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, WHERE CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF ARMS TRANSFERS IS SIMPLY UNREALISTIC, WHEREAS A POSSIBLE APPROACH THROUGH REGIONAL AGREEMENTS OFFERS A REALISTIC PATH TO EXPLORE. BY THE SAME TOKEN, CALLS FOR ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HOWEVER DESIRABLE THIS WOULD BE, ARE CURRENTLY UNREALISTIC, WHEREAS CONTROLLING POSSESSION OF ENRICHED PLUTONIUM AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS ARE REALISTIC CONTEMPORARY MEASURES.

6. SORSA AND HIS COLLEAGUES FULLY AGREED WITH WARNKE'S COMMENTS AND STRESSED THAT THE STUDY GROUP WAS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR A REALISTIC APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS. SORSA SAID THAT SOCIALIST INTERNA-

TIONAL CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT SAW CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV DURING HIS RECENT FRG VISIT. BRANDT REPORTED THAT HE WOULD EXPECT THE SI STUDY GROUP QUOTE TO BE RECEIVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL UNQUOTE WHEN IT VISITS THE SOVIET UNION PRIOR TO THE VANCOUVER CONGRESS. SORSA SAID THAT HE WILL WRITE TO BREZHNEV ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE STUDY GROUP. HE ASKED IF HE SHOULD WRITE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUP AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY GROUP, WITH THE HOPE OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. AMBASSADOR WARNKE SAID SUCH AN APPROACH APPREARED APPROPRIATE. SORSA SAID THAT IDEALLY THE STUDY GROUP COULD BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 27 - 30.

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7. SORSA SAID THAT HE WOULD ASK AMBASSADOR ILONIEMI AND AMBASSADOR JAAKKO BLOMBERG AT THE FINNISH UN MISSION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON CONTACTS ON THE STUDY GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. WARNKE SUGGESTED, FOR ACDA'S PART, SPURGEON KEENY AND JOHN NEWHOUSE AS CONTACTS FOR THE FINNISH SIDE.

8. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH SORSA EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO WARNKE FOR TAKING TIME FROM A BUSY NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE TO MEET, AND INDICATING THAT HIS SDP STAFF WOULD KEEP THE EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON INFORMED ABOUT THE STUDY GROUP'S ACTIVITIES AS THEY PROGRESS. END OF MEMCON.
RIDGWAY

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